**Dredging at Gujarat ports**

1947. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are planning to dredge the channels' of Gujarat Government ports;

(b) the type of infrastructure proposed to be developed at Gujarat ports in comparison to major ports; and

(c) in what way the Gujarat Ports can benefit with inception of rharitime policy?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Responsibility for development of Norr-Major Ports vests in the respective State Government, *i.e.,* Government of Gujarat in respett of Non-Major Ports in the State of Gujarat. The comprehensive scope of the proposed Maritime Policy is expected to benefit Non-Major Ports also.

**Rail-road linkage projects to minor ports**

1948. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of rail-road linkage projects pertaining to the minor ports of Gujarat are pending and require preparation and execution of an early implementation plan by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) the progress made in respect of these projects during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the steps propsed to be taken during the current year, alongwith the project-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Union Government is responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways (NHs) and providing connectivity to the Major Ports, of the country. At present, there is only one Major Port in Gujarat, i.e., Kandla Port which is well connected through National Highway NH-8A. However, some of the projects for augmentation of National Highways in Gujarat, that have been included in the National Highways Development Programme/(NHDP) Phase-Ill, would also facilitate improved road linkage to some non-Major Ports of Gujarat. These projects are indicated below:--

| Project | Status |
|---|---|
| Kandla-Mundra Port Section of NH-8A | The work for preparation of DPR has been awarded to M/s RITES in the month of July, 2007 and is in progress. |
| Surat-Hazira Port Section of NH-6 | DPR is in progress. |

For the connectivity of Broad Guage Rail Linkages to important non-Major Ports in Gujarat, the Gujarat Maritime Board had initiated and completed Techno-Feasibility Studies through M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) Limited. Discussions were held between senior officers of Government of Gujarat and Railway Board on 20th July, 2006. Meanwhile, Railways are executing following projects for providing linkage to non-Major Ports in Gujarat:

| Name of the Port | Status |
|---|---|
| Dahej Port (Bharuch-Samni-Dahej-Gauge Conversion) | The project has been sanctioned for execution by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *viz.* Bharuch-Dahej Railway Company Limited which will implement the project. The shareholder's agreement has been signed on 12.1.2007. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 165.77 crores. The Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed and the report submitted to Divisional Railway Manager, Baroda on 29.6.2007. |
| Hazira Port (Surat-Hazira-New Line) | A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementation of this project is to be created upon finalization of principles for revenue allocation and Concession Agreement for this project FLS has been completed. |
| Dholera Port | Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is undertaking the Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Surey (PETS) for rail connectivity to this Port. |
| Bedi and New Bedi Port Connectivity | Railway Board is appraising the Study Report prepared by RITES for this project. |

**Pedestrian over-bridges on NH-5**

1949. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pedestrian over-bridges on entire NH-5 presently;

(b) the additional number of pedestrian over-bridges planned in the year 2007-08 on NH-5;

(c) the break-up of such pedestrian over bridges, State-wise;

(d) the reasons" for ignoring vulnerable spots and accident-prone places-pointed-out by Road Safety Forum; and

(e) the steps proposed to create a transparent and responsive NHAI in 2007- 08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The number of pedestrian over-bridges on entire NH-5 is four.